

HONORING THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEXICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION COMMISSION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Mexican-American Education Commission (MAEC) for its 30 years of dedicated service to the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). On Friday, March 6, 1998, MAEC commemorated the 30th anniversary of the East Los Angeles "Blowouts" and the establishment of the Commission. At this special program, over 300 LAUSD students joined former MAEC directors, commissioners, and community and student leaders who participated in the 1968 walkouts. This program was an educational and historical reflection on an event that was significant to the city of Los Angeles and to the Mexican-American community.

For three decades, MAEC has worked to establish inroads to equitable educational opportunities for Chicano/Hispanic students and to fight the early discriminatory practices of the educational community. Today, MAEC continues to voice the community's concerns and make recommendations to the Board of Education about programs and issues related to the more than 435,000 Chicano/Hispanic students who comprise over 70 percent of the LAUSD student population. It has accomplished this task through pro-active assessments of the community's needs and recommendations on priorities. The Commission recommends projects and activities to improve the effectiveness of educational programs for Hispanic students. It also strengthens communication between the public and the LAUSD. To fulfill its mission of advising, assisting, and making recommendations to the Board of Education, the Commission conducts surveys and studies, participates in LAUSD committees, meets with school, community, and District groups, and advises students, parents and community members of the District's activities.

Dedicated to the principle of community involvement, MAEC membership is broad-based, and includes parents, educators, administrators, professionals, and civic and community leaders. The Commission has carried out its responsibilities through the generous support of its members who dedicate many hours of volunteer time and expertise to this worthy cause. I am proud to count myself as a current MAEC member and one of the 1968 Commission's original members, appointed by the Board of Education, the Educational Issues Coordinating Council and the Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Urban Affairs.

The dedicated efforts of its original members created an institution that has been instrumental in educational reform for the past 30 years. The members of the original MAEC were: Parents—Mr. Ben Carmona, Mr. Armando Chavez, Mrs. Sara MacPherson, Mr. Gordon Moreno, Mr. George Mount, Mrs. Celia Rodriguez, Mrs. Eva Romero; Educators—Dr. Rudolph Acuna, Mr. Raul Arreola, Mr. Ray Cenicerros, Mr. Joseph Conway, Mr. Marcos De Leon, Mr. William Forbes, Mr.

Oscar L. Gallego, Dr. Simon Gonzales, Mr. Cesar Gonzales, S.J., Dr. Kenneth Martyn, Mr. Joseph Maytorena, Dr. David Sanchez, Mr. Fred Sanchez, Mr. Frank Serrano, Dr. Frank Synder; Students—Miss Maria Baeza, Mr. Henry Gutierrez, Miss Rosalinda Mendez, Mr. Carlos Munoz, Mr. Monte Perez, Mr. Jesus Trevino, Mr. Carl Vasquez; Professionals—Mr. Manuel Aragon, Jr., Dr. Francisco Bravo, Mr. Ben Gurule, Rev. Vahac Mardirosian, Mr. Robert Morales, Mr. Richard Orozco, Mr. Joseph Ortega, Rev. Horacio Quinones, Mr. J.J. Rodriguez, Mr. Raul Ruiz, Mr. Esteban E. Torres.

Present Commission members are: Parents—Mrs. Ruby Aguilar, Mr. Ben Carmona, Mr. Armando Chavez, Mrs. Mary Fernandez, Mrs. Kay Gurule, Mrs. Sara Fernandez, Mrs. Kay Gurule, Mrs. Sara MacPherson, Mr. Gordon Moreno, Mr. George Mount, Mrs. Monica Salinas, Mrs. Rita Zepeda; Educators—Mr. David Almeda, Mr. Ray Cenicerros, Mr. Al Cobos, Mr. Oscar Gallego, Dr. Simon Gonzales, Mr. Joe Maytorena, Mr. Frank Serrano; Students—Mr. David Arellano, Miss Raquel Galan, Mr. Henry Gutierrez, Mr. Leonard Herrera, Mr. Carlos Ramirez; Professionals—Mr. Manuel Aragon, Jr., Rev. Vahac Mardirosian, Mr. Joe Ortega, Rev. Horacio Quinones, Mr. Esteban E. Torres.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Los Angeles Unified School District Mexican American Education Commission for its 30 years of outstanding and invaluable service to the students and greater Los Angeles community and for its dedication to tearing down barriers and ensuring that all students have equitable access to education.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER  
THREATENS UNITED STATES

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the attached articles from the January and February, 1998 edition of News India-Times and Burning Punjab placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I was shocked to read an article from News India-Times stating that "India will not tolerate the use of military force against Iraq." This threat was made by Inder Kumar Gujral, the caretaker Prime Minister of India, on January 30. "Hindustan will not tolerate another attack on Iraq," the Reuters news service quoted Mr. Gujral as saying.

Members of this House have differing views about the wisdom of launching a military attack against Iraq, but one thing I think we can all agree on is that this decision should be made by the government of the United States without the threats or interference of any foreign power, especially one that depends on American aid.

Indian is one of the five largest recipients of foreign aid from the United States. Its economy is so bad that half the population lives below the international poverty line. Yet it has been a major exporter of dangerous weapons to Iran and other hostile countries. How can the United States continue to aid such a country?

If the shoe were on the other foot, Mr. Speaker, India would be decrying this inter-

ference in its internal affairs. But Mr. Gujral seems to think that it is OK for him to interfere in America's internal affairs. Sovereign countries are allowed to have and express their opinions, even to express them in strong language, but this kind of threat against the sovereignty of the United States is unacceptable and must not be tolerated.

I also find it ironic that a country that has murdered almost 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir in the past decade is taking such a strong position in support of a Muslim country. If India's repression against the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagaland, the Dalits, the Muslims of Kashmir, and other minorities of South Asia were not reason enough to support the independence movements of South Asia, this kind of threat ought to make us support them for strategic reasons. Let us make it clear to India and all the countries of the world that we will not tolerate this kind of interference with our national sovereignty.

I am introducing the News India-Times article from its February 6 issue into the RECORD:

[From the News-India Times, Feb. 6, 1997]

ATTACK ON IRAQ WON'T BE TOLERATED:

GUJRAL

CALCUTTA.—India will not tolerate the use of military force against Iraq, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told an election rally Jan. 30.

Reuters quoted the premier as saying: "Hindustan will not tolerate another attack on Iraq." Gujral told the rally in the eastern city of Calcutta. "An attack on Iraq will jeopardize the peace in the entire Middle East region where more than 2.5 million Indians live."

Gujral said he had written to President Bill Clinton stating that an attack on Iraq would endanger the lives of expatriate Indians and had sent similar letters to leaders of the other four nations with permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.

"However, India was of view that use of military force against Iraq will complicate the situation and will not contribute to the ends to which the UN is committed. Further, it will greatly aggravate the acute sufferings which the Iraqi people had undergone, he said, PTI reported.

In his letter to Clinton, Gujral drew attention to the geographical proximity and traditional cultural links which India has with the Gulf region and the substantial growth of New Delhi's interaction over the years with all the countries in the region, especially in the economic field.

"The Gulf countries, are among India's leading trading partners and sources of energy and are home to sizeable Indian community," Gujral said.

PUNJAB POLICE FRAME TWO MORE YOUNG SIKHS

Mr. Speaker, I was distressed by a recent report from Burning Punjab that two more young Sikhs were falsely arrested at Gurdwara Guru Nanak in Jalandhar by the Punjab police. These two Sikh youths were innocently riding by the Gurdwara on their bicycles, according to Burning Punjab, when they were beaten and shoved into a police jeep. Later about 150 police surrounded the Gurdwara.

No crime was committed, but the police falsely alleged that the two Sikhs they picked up were "militants," an odd claim considering that the Indian government is fond of telling the world that they have crushed the militancy in Punjab. How is it that none of these "militants," has ever been brought to trial?

Human-rights activists have appealed to the National Human Rights Commission for action. Let's see if anything happens.